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REUSABLE FOOD COVERS**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/838,461, filed Jun. 24, 2013 and to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/769,312, filed Feb. 26, 2013, both of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure is directed to a reusable food cover. More particularly, the present disclosure is directed to a reusable food cover or a set of reusable food covers that can be applied to preserve foods, such as fruits and vegetables, which have been cut or partially consumed.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Food covers for storing partially used fruits and vegetables are widely available in an assortment of configurations. Some of these food covers are rigid containers for storing fruits and vegetables, such as onions, tomatoes, and bananas. These food covers typically include two separate, rigid pieces. These pieces can both be dish-like or one piece can be dish-like and the other flat. These pieces are joined by a threaded connection that requires mating the threads and screwing the pieces together to enclose the food therein. Mating the threads can require care and patience.

Alternatively, these rigid containers can be formed of a single piece of material that includes two rigid dish-like halves joined by a hinge.

These types of rigid cases leave food exposed to significant open air circulation and fail to offer an adequate seal over the exposed sections of fruit or vegetables. These rigid containers may also typically be designed and shaped to resemble the particular foods they contain, and thus may fail to offer the flexibility of being able to adequately preserve a wide variety of foods of various shapes.

Some of these containers are opaque so that the food is difficult to identify. Some of these containers have a transparent half and an opaque half. Although the food is visible through the transparent half, and opaque half may obscure the food from view. In both cases, a user may need to open or flip the container to see the contents. In the first case, this exposes the food to more air. In both cases, a user may overlook such enclosed food until it is unusable.

Additionally, these containers are bulky, since they are larger than the food enclosed within and thus may take up the limited space in a user's fruit and vegetable drawers in a refrigerator. The two-piece versions of these containers require a user to locate both pieces in order to use the containers, which can be an added hurdle to use.

Another way to preserve food is using plastic wraps, which are available in a variety of configurations. Plastic wraps are typically sold in rolls or sheets and can be applied to partially consumed fruits and vegetables to preserve their freshness. Since plastic wraps are not sufficiently durable to be used on multiple occasions, washed, nor reapplied suitably over and over again, they are typically used one time and thrown away. This is wasteful. Plastic wraps also fail to provide a strong connection with the food being preserved. In order to hold and/or seal the plastic wrap on the food, an additional member, such as a rubber band must be used.

Thus, a need exists for a food cover that allows for an adequate seal on partially consumed foods. A need also exists

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for food covers that are durable enough to be reusable and capable of being used across a wide variety of food items.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates to reusable food covers. Moreover, the disclosed covers are one-piece dish-shaped covers capable of self-securing to food to decrease air flow and preserve partially consumed food longer. The covers are of a size and scale that is suitable to cover most foods, such as fruits and vegetables. These covers are a convenient tool to help users reduce the waste of partially consumed foods, which become no longer edible nor desirable, due to their exposure to air, loss of moisture, or the loss of the natural preservation properties of their skins. Without the application of the reusable food covers, the food would be exposed to bacteria, dehydrate and rapidly cease to be appealing for consumption.

The disclosed covers may be shaped to resemble circular foods, such as tomatoes, or shaped to resemble foods such as avocados. Moreover, the covers may include a thin section or live hinge and hemispherical section for use with pitted foods, such as avocados. The disclosed covers may also be configured and dimensioned to create a set that may allow the food covers to nest within one another.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings that form a part of the specification and are to be read in conjunction therewith, illustrate by way of example and not limitation, with like reference numerals referring to like elements, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a set of four nested reusable food covers of a first exemplary configuration;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of one of the first exemplary food covers of FIG. 1 in an unstretched or initial state;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of three of the first exemplary food covers of FIG. 1 in a final or stretched state with food therein;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an extra-large second exemplary food cover in an unstretched state;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the food cover of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the food cover of FIG. 4 along arrow 6-6 of FIG. 4, where the cover is an unstretched state;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the food cover of FIG. 6 where the cover is in a final state with food therein;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of three additional sizes of the second exemplary food covers in an unstretched state;

FIG. 9 is a top view of the food covers of FIGS. 4 and 8 nested;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the nested food covers of FIG. 9 along arrow 10-10 of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of two sizes of third exemplary food covers, where the covers are in an unstretched state;

FIG. 12 is a front view of the small food cover of FIG. 11, where a pit chamber is in a concave state;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view along arrow 13-13 of FIG. 12 of the food cover of FIG. 12;

FIG. 14 is an enlarged view of the portion of the cover of FIG. 13 within circle 14-14;

FIG. 15 is a front view of the food cover of FIG. 12, where the pit chamber is in a convex state;

FIG. 16 is a cross-sectional view along arrow 16-16 of FIG. 15 of the food cover of FIG. 15;

FIG. 17 is a front view of the large food cover of FIG. 11;